GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4994
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2005
OPENING OF INTERNATIONAL ROUTES TO PRIVATE AIRLINES
Rawat Shri Bachi Singh

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government has decided to open up international air routes for private airline Jet Airways and grant it passage rights to the United States;

(b) whether Government is also considering to open up international air routes for other private airlines;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the decision to open up international air routes for Jet Airways was announced on the day the Jet Airways issued its public offer to equity thereby facilitating over subscription of equity on the same day;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to avoid announcing such decisions which may favour private airways?

Answer

- MINISTER OF STATE(INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a), (b) and (c): Indian scheduled carriers having continuous operations of at least 5 years in the domestic sector and having a minimum fleet size of 20 aircraft have been permitted to operate on all international routes except UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. So far, entitlements have been allocated to the following private carriers for operations on international routes:-

Jet Airways: Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, UK, Belgium, USA, Malaysia, Singapore

Air Sahara: Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, UK, Malaysia, Singapore.

(d), (e) and (f): The decision to permit eligible Indian scheduled carriers to operate on international routes was under Government`s consideration for some time and this was also one of the recommendations of Naresh Chandra Committee. This decision applies to all eligible private carriers equally and has nothing to do with the public offer of Jet Airways.